

Amendment

In the Claims

1. (currently amended, withdrawn) A method of generating a living biological matrix *in vitro*, the method consisting essentially of: (a) obtaining a cell sample; (b) disrupting the cell sample to create a mixture containing cells and cellular debris; (c) culturing the mixture, retaining the cellular debris, in culture medium for a time and under conditions sufficient to form a living biological matrix *in vitro*; and (d) separating the biological matrix from the culturing medium, wherein the cells include spore-like cells.

2. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell sample of step (a) is obtained from a subject who will be a recipient of the biological matrix.

3. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell sample of step (a) is obtained from a human.

4. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell sample comprises a bodily fluid.

5. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the bodily fluid is blood.

6. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the bodily fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

7. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell sample comprises a portion of an organ.

8. (previously presented, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell sample comprises auricular cartilage.

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9. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein before disrupting the cell sample, the perichondrium is removed from the cartilage.

10. (previously presented, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding to the separated mixture a component that adds shape, structure, or support to the matrix.

11. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the component is a hydrogel or an adhesive.

12. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding to the matrix an antibiotic.

13. (previously presented, withdrawn) A method of augmenting a tissue defect in a subject, the method comprising: (a) preparing a living biological matrix using the method of claim 1; and (b) administering the living biological matrix to the subject in the region of the tissue defect, wherein the matrix develops a characteristic of the endogenous tissue and thereby augments the tissue defect.

14. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the tissue defect is in a muscle.

15. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the muscle is the heart.

16. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the tissue defect is in a portion of a lung, pancreas, spinal cord, joint, head, neck, skin, kidney, or liver of the subject.

17. (original, withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the subject is a human.

18. (currently amended) A living biological matrix comprising cells, cell fragments, lipids, and polysaccharides,

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wherein the matrix is made by a method consisting essentially of

(a) obtaining a cell sample;

(b) disrupting the cell sample to create a mixture containing cells and cellular debris;

(c) culturing the mixture, retaining the cellular debris, in culture medium for a time and under conditions sufficient to form a living biological matrix *in vitro*; and

(d) separating the biological matrix from the culturing medium, wherein the cells include spore-like cells.

19. (original) The matrix of claim 18, further comprising a component that adds shape, structure, or support to the matrix.

20. (original) The matrix of claim 18, further comprising a hydrogel or adhesive.

21. (original) The matrix of claim 18, further comprising an antibiotic.

22. (original) The matrix of claim 18, further comprising a cellular component selected from the group consisting of a fibronectin, laminin, collagen, glycoprotein, thrombospondin, elastin, fibrillin, mucopolysaccharide, glycolipid, heparin sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, keratin sulfate, glycosaminoglycan, and hyaluronic acid.

23. (original, withdrawn) A method of augmenting a tissue defect in a subject, the method comprising: (a) obtaining a living biological matrix of claim 18; and (b) administering the living biological matrix to the subject in the region of the tissue defect, wherein the matrix develops a characteristic of the endogenous tissue and thereby augments the tissue defect.

24. (cancelled)

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25. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the cell sample of step (a) is obtained from a subject who will be a recipient of the biological matrix.

26. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the cell sample is obtained from a human.

27. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the cell sample comprises a bodily fluid.

28. (original) The matrix of claim 27, wherein the bodily fluid is blood.

29. (original) The matrix of claim 27, wherein the bodily fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

30. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the cell sample comprises a part of an organ.

31. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the cell sample comprises auricular cartilage.

32. (original) The matrix of claim 31, wherein, before disrupting the cell sample, the perichondrium is removed from the cartilage.

33. (currently amended) The matrix of claim 18 24, wherein the biological matrix ~~process further comprising adding~~ is added to the mixture a component that adds shape, structure, or support material ~~to the matrix~~.